

Abstract

A novel method of treating and preventing viral infection is provided. In particular a method of blocking viral infection facilitated by a serine proteolytic (SP) activity is disclosed, which consists of administering to a subject suffering or about to suffer from viral infection a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having a serine protease inhibitory or serpin activity. Among compounds are α_1 -antitrypsin (AAT), peptide derivatives from the carboxyterminal end of AAT, and man-made, synthetic compounds mimicking the action of such compounds. The preferred viral infections include retroviral infection such as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

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